(b) As a result of the above measures, there is an increasing awareness amongst computer software developers and users and software piracy rate in the country has dropped (NASSCOM's report).

Training for Hindi Typing and Stenography in Ministry of Information Technology

†4178. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of typists and stenographers under his Ministry and Subordinate Offices who have not taken training in Hindi typing and Hindi stenography ;

(b) the reasons for not giving them such training so far; and

(c) by when it is planned to give them such training?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) 151 Lower Division Clerks and 113 stenographers are yet to be trained in Hindi Typing and Hindi Stenography.

The employees who had earlier been trained have been either promoted to higher posts or have gone elsewhere.

Various courses are being conducted to train the employees in Hindi Typing/Stenography and computers. Training is also being imparted through correspondence by the 'Central Hindi Training Institution' under Department of Official language. It is expected that of all the remaining employees (particularly LDCs/UDCs/Stenos) would be trained in Hindi typing and Hindi Stenography in the next two years.

Usage of Hindi Typewriters in the Ministry of Information Technology

†4179 . SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the offices under his Ministry which dont's have a single Hindi typewriters so far;

(b) the reasons for not purchasing the Hindi typewriter there so far, and the officers responsible for such kind of negligence; and

(c) the action taken to ensure the compliance of targets fixed for the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

purchase of Hindi typewriter by the Department of Official Language in its Annual Hindi Programme?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) Due to the increase in use of Computers and keeping its utility in view, Ministry of Information Technology and its Subordinate Offices have not been purchasing typewriters for the past several years and only computers are being purchased. Since computers are language independent, it can be used for Hindi and other Indian languages through requisite software. Application software developed by various organisations/companies for working in Hindi and Indian languages on computer are available in the market.

I.T. Education

4180. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to levy cess on IT Firms for sponsoring IT education;

(b) if so, what are the details of the programme; and

(c) in what manner IT education would be sponsored and promoted?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Software Technology Parks

4181. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI : Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set-up Software Technology Parks in 25 States during the next 18 months;

(b) if so, the name of the States where the parks are to be set-up on priority basis; and

(c) the estimated cost of each park?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER